

**Ranking Category—Environmental Quality Incentives Program
Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative**

Description—

- **A primary resource concern must be addressed prior to treating a secondary resource concern**
- **Enrolled pasture consisting of single species or introduced grass must be restored to a plant community with species diversity to benefit LPC**
- **Enrolled cropland must be converted to native perennial herbaceous vegetation**
- **A Kansas Biological Technical Note-KS36, Prairie-Chicken Habitat Assessment, must be completed**
- **A grazing management plan to benefit LPC is required where livestock are associated with the offered area**
- **Upland wildlife habitat management will be included in the conservation plan on all offered areas**

Primary Resource Concerns—

- **Fish and Wildlife—Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, Species of Concern (Lesser Prairie-Chicken)**

Secondary Resource Concern—

- **Plant Condition—Forage Quality and Palatability**
- **Plant Condition—Noxious and Invasive Plants**
- **Plant Condition—Plants not adapted or suited**
- **Plant Condition—Productivity, Health and Vigor**

Eligible Land Uses—

- **Grazed Range, Crop, Hay, Pasture**

Screening Criteria—

- **Applications will be considered HIGH priority if the offered acreage is located within the Kansas LPC current range and within high priority areas (either "irreplaceable" or "limiting") as defined by the Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT)**
- **Applications will be considered MEDIUM priority if the offered acreage is either: (1) within the action area and is classified as "significant" (as defined by the CHAT), or (2) outside of the action area but classified as "irreplaceable" or "limiting" (as defined by the CHAT) AND has data indicating the presence of Lesser Prairie-Chicken (LPC) use**
- **All other applications outside of the above described "Screening Criteria" are ineligible**

State Issues—

1. Is there a documented active lek on or within 2 miles of the offered acres that will be under contract if approved? (If the lek is located on the applicant's operation they must be willing to share this information in order to receive points).
300 points
2. Will the offered acres include expired or expiring (this calendar year) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres that will be maintained, enhanced, and or established? 300 points

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3. Will the offered acres include treatment of woody vegetation to improve LPC habitat? 300 points
4. Will the offered acres include cropland acres that will be converted to LPC habitat? 100 points
5. Will a Prescribed Burn Plan promoting LPC habitat be applied under contract? 25 points
6. Will a Prescribed Grazing Plan promoting LPC habitat be applied under contract? 25 points
7. Is the application supported by a current (less than 5 years old) approved Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation plan, that addresses LPC concerns? 25 points

Local Issues –

1. Does the application include a practice with a lifespan of at least ten years (As documented in the electronic Field Office Technical Guide [eFOTG])? 5 points
2. Does the application include conservation practices that are scheduled to be completed within the first 4 years? 5 points
3. Has the applicant secured funding for the project from other contributors (i.e., Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, conservation districts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams, or others)? 5 points
4. Will the planned treatment benefit natural wetlands exceeding one acre in size (a certified wetland determination is not required)? 5 points
5. Does the offered acreage have less than 51 percent of the section lines present within a one-mile radius (2,000 acres) developed into primary roads (heavily maintained county roads, state highways, interstates, and gas/oil roads)? 5 points
6. Does the offered acreage have less than 3 vertical structures (transmission line poles, wind turbines, cell phone towers, buildings, tank batteries, etc.) present within a one-mile radius (2,000 acres)? 5 points
7. Does the offered acreage have less than 2 oil and gas wells present within a one-mile radius (2,000 acres)? 5 points